

WDPA Data Status Report

USA

January 2021

About this Report and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

The WDPA is the most comprehensive global dataset on terrestrial and marine protected areas, incorporating the official UN List of Protected Areas. The WDPA dataset is not necessarily a complete representation of all the protected areas which have been designated in country. The quality of the WDPA depends on the accessibility of accurate, comprehensive, up-to-date protected areas information from data holders.

This report describes the current status of data in the WDPA for all sites included in the January 2021 monthly release for USA. The WDPA is updated each month, and the information in this factsheet may have been superseded by a more recent update.

You can also view the latest data at the country/territory level on the relevant Protected Planet page:

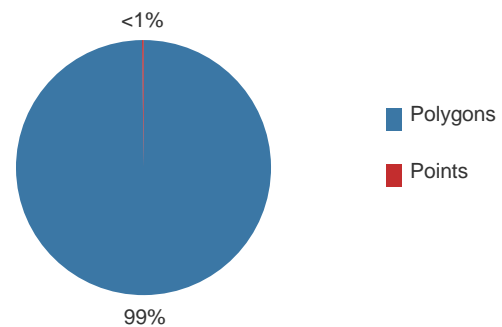
<https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/USA>

Protected areas data in the WDPa for USA

There are 36,281 protected area records stored in the WDPa for USA, 36,186 are national-level protected areas with 95 designated under international and regional agreements or conventions.

A breakdown of the protected areas data by point and polygon format is provided in Figure 1. Polygon data have associated boundaries, whereas point data provide a single latitude and longitude for the protected area.

Figure 1: Ratio of points to polygons



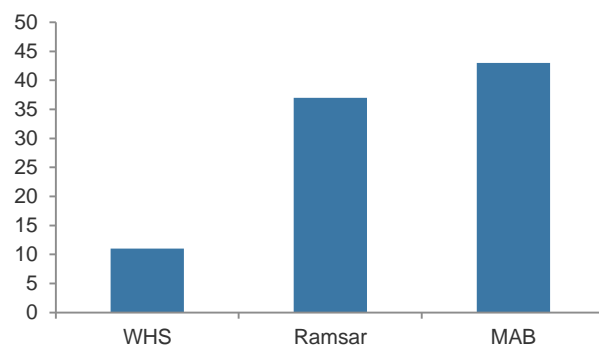
Of the 36,281 protected areas, 386 (1%) include a marine component. These protected areas are completely within the marine environment.

Data for protected areas designated under international and regional conventions and agreements

Of the 95 protected area records in the WDPa for USA that are designated under international or regional conventions or agreements:

11 are World Heritage Sites (WHS); 37 are Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance; 43 are UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserves (MAB). See Figure 2. A further 4 sites have been designated under other conventions or agreements.

Figure 2: Number of WHS, Ramsar and MAB sites

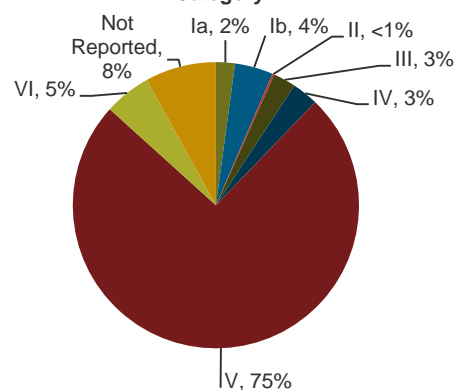


Data for national-level protected areas

Of the 36,186 national-level protected area records in the WDPa for USA, IUCN Management Categories have been reported for 33,281 records. The remaining 2,905 features are recorded as Not Reported.

Figure 3 shows the allocation of IUCN Management Categories across national-level protected area records in the WDPa (numbers of sites in each category are shown in Table 2 at the end of this report).

Figure 3: National-level protected areas by IUCN Management Category



Completeness of WDPA Data Attributes for USA

The WDPA requires that a minimum set of information is provided with each protected area record. These data attributes are defined in the WDPA User Manual.

Table 1 shows the extent to which key attributes have been reported by data providers for all protected area records in the WDPA for USA.

Table 1: Completeness of selected attributes

Attribute	Completeness
IUCN Category	92%
Status (designated or proposed)	100%
Status Year	48%
Governance Type	97%
Management Authority	100%
Link to Management Plan	0%

The WDPA User Manual 1.6 can be viewed at http://wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual.

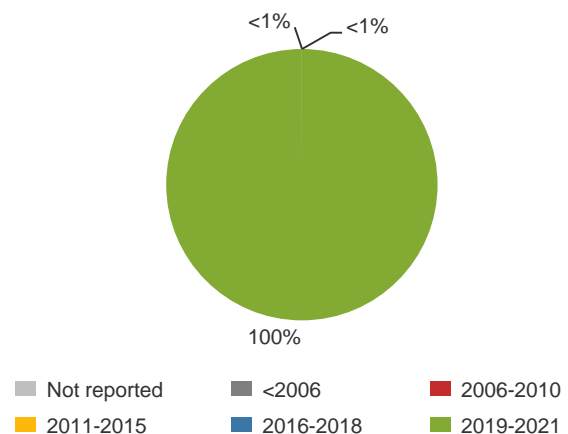
Data sources in the WDPA for USA

Data for USA in the WDPA have been obtained or validated from 5 sources.

Figure 4 shows the breakdown of when protected area records in the WDPA were last updated or validated.

Data for protected areas designated under international agreements and conventions have been sourced from the relevant convention secretariat. This includes: UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Ramsar Convention Secretariat and UNESCO Man and The Biosphere Programme.

Figure 4: Percentage of records updated or validated by year



Data for national-level protected areas in the WDPA have been sourced from national authorities wherever possible. Information may also be supplemented by data from other agencies or organisations working in each country. As part of the update process for national data, national authorities are given the opportunity to review, validate and, where necessary, edit all existing WDPA records for their country. All updates to the WDPA by national authorities take priority over other sources and are considered to be the authoritative version.

All records for USA in the WDPA have a reported source.

The top three sources for national-level data in USA are: U.S. Geological Survey | Science Analytics and Synthesis | Gap Analysis Project (GAP) | Protected Areas Database of the United States 2.0; US Geological Survey, USA; Remote Sensing Research Unit, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Table 2: WDPA Data for USA (as of January 2021)

For more information on the categories below please refer to the Biodiversity A-Z, www.biodiversitya-z.org

	Polygons	Points	Total
Realm: terrestrial or marine			
Terrestrial	35,100	49	35,149
Coastal	746		746
Marine	379	7	386
Status: designated or proposed			
Designated	36,214	56	36,270
Established			
Proposed			
Status not reported			
Areas designated under international conventions and agreements			
UNESCO World Heritage Sites (natural / mixed)	11		11
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)	18	19	37
UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves	6	37	43
Areas designated under regional conventions and agreements			
Baltic Sea Protected Area (HELCOM)			
Marine Protected Area (CCAMLR)			
Marine Protected Area (OSPAR)			
Site of Community Importance (Habitats Directive)			
Special Protection Area (Birds Directive)			
Specially Protected Area (Cartagena Convention)	4		4
Specially Protected Area of Mediterranean Importance (Barcelona Conv.)			
National-level Protected Areas: IUCN Management Category			
Ia: Strict Nature Reserve	776		776
Ib: Wilderness Area	1,566		1,566
II: National Park	80		80
III: National Monument or Feature	924		924
IV: Habitat/ Species Management Area	1,068		1,068
V: Protected Landscape / Seascape	26,960		26,960
VI: Protected Area with Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	1,907		1,907
Not Assigned			
Not Reported	2,905		2,905
Total number of records in the WDPA for USA			
	36,225	56	36,281

WDPA Quality Indicators for USA

The percentage of records with boundaries in polygon format



The WDPA stores all records with spatial (location) data. These data can be polygons which represent the boundaries of the protected area, or a single latitude/longitude point which shows the general location of the protected area. This indicator shows the percentage of records with boundaries - the preferred spatial data.

The percentage of data attributes which have been reported by the data provider



Each record in the WDPA has 25 fields for which data attributes are requested. This indicator shows the weighted percentage of data fields which have been reported, based on the minimum, core and complete attributes.

The percentage of records updated or validated by the data provider in the last 5 years



UNEP-WCMC sets a target to update each record in the WDPA at least every five years. This indicator shows the percentage of records updated in the last 5 years (since January 2016).

The percentage of records where the area of the polygon is within 5% of the area reported



The area (km²) reported for a protected area may sometimes differ from the calculated GIS area of the boundary polygon provided, possibly indicating a discrepancy within the information submitted. This indicator shows the percentage of records where the area of the polygon is within a threshold of 5% of the area reported. The threshold allows for differences due to projections and software used for calculating the GIS area.

0 100 The possible range of scores for countries/territories in the WDPA



Country score for USA in January 2021 (solid circle) and March 2020 (dotted circle)



Overall score for the WDPA

The UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is a global Centre of excellence on biodiversity. The Centre operates as a collaboration between the UN Environment Programme and the UK-registered charity WCMC. Together we are confronting the global crisis facing nature.

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